

## Legends of Soldier Summit

1. Some Say: "Some departing soldiers from the abandoned camp Floyd (Fort Crittenden), under General Philip St. George Cooke were caught, unprepared, in a chilling blizzard, in July 1861 on the summit. A couple of the soldiers died during the snowstorm and were burried on the summit." (1)

2. Another Story: <sup>"Agrees"</sup> Agrees that the troops moved up the creek now called East Fork of Soldier Creek, merely passed over the broad summit on their way east, but were not caught in a snowstorm." (2)

3. Tom Brackenbury, in July 1984 related this story to Dr. R. Raymond Green: ~~Seven~~ <sup>of Johnston's Army</sup> soldiers went AWOL from Cedar Fort, <sup>Utah Co.</sup> They came up Spanish Fork Canyon and got caught in a snow storm in \_\_\_\_\_ 1861 and froze to death. Someone burried them in a swail south of the present Soldier Summit. (3)

Note: the same day, Dr. Green found an older man <sup>Keith Walters ("Pappy")</sup> who had purchased the motel east of Brackenbury's Service Station and the old fellow showed Dr. Green a grave stone back in his coal bin, <sup>3</sup> belonging to the seven *Soldiers who died there in 1861. He salvaged it from the elements & vanda/s some years before.*

4. Another Story: "Tragedy, a railroad boom and now near oblivion are the brief steps of history in Soldier Summit, one of the few communities in Wasatch County that lies outside Provo Valley. The ghost town of today had its beginning about 1862 in the midst of tragedy. Soldiers from Johnston's Army that had been stationed at Camp Floyd were recalled to aid in the Civil War. Desiring to return to the East as quickly as possible many of the soldiers started up Spanish Fork Canyon along the pass between the Colorado Basin and the Great Basin. Caught in a blizzard common to the high mountain country, they died from exposure. The bodies were buried near the pass at a spot which became known as "Soldiers Summit" in their honor." (4)

### SOLDIERS SUMMIT

R Tragedy, a railroad boom and now near oblivion are the brief steps of history in Soldiers Summit, one of the few communities in Wasatch County that lies outside Provo Valley.

The ghost town of today had its beginning about 1862 in the midst of tragedy. Soldiers from Johnston's Army that had been stationed at Camp Floyd were recalled to aid in the Civil War. Desiring to return to the East as quickly as possible many of the soldiers started up Spanish Fork Canyon along the pass between the Colorado Basin and the Great Basin. Caught in a blizzard common to the high mountain country, they died from exposure. The bodies were buried near the pass at a spot which became known as "Soldiers Summit" in their honor.

45 South Main St.  
Heber, Utah 84032

→ over

(5)

J. H.

**SOLDIER SUMMIT, WASATCH COUNTY**J. M. Turner

Most people living in Wasatch County are prone to think of it as being Heber City surrounded by Midway, Charleston, Wallburg, Daniel and Center Creek and a few scattered farms and industries. Little is known locally of the last region in Wasatch County to be pioneered, settled and then, almost abandoned. This place is Soldier Summit.

The stories told by old settlers are to the effect that a fragment of Johnson's Army became separated from the main body somewhere in Wyoming and wandered into this part of Wasatch County where they perished from cold and exposure during the winter of 1857. Hence the name of Soldier Summit.

Whoever found and buried these men were most kind. Each grave is well-marked with a cross of rocks laid on the surface of each grave. A fence was built around the six graves.

The D. R. G. & Western Railroad chose Soldier Summit as a division point. Here a thriving, rather tough town, grew up only to be forsaken when trainmen found it impossible to fight the snow and cold. The division was returned to Helper.

According to the town record there should be 96 people there, but that figure seems much to "hopeful." In Soldier Summit you find one of the County's best equipped schools. Community loyalty is unsurpassed. No service is too great for our patrons to perform. Recently men waded in snow to their armpits to bring in the Christmas tree. On next Sunday afternoon the parents will gather and trim the tree after which everyone will partake of a fine community supper and take part in a song fest. Every child will receive a gift and Santa will not forget the adults when the big party is held December 20, 1951.

*From "Pioneers of Wasatch"*

## Legends of Soldier Summit

1. Some Say: Some departing soldiers from the abandoned camp Floyd (Fort Crittenden), under General Philip St. George Cooke were caught, unprepared, in a chilling blizzard, in July 1861 on the summit. A couple of the soldiers died during the snowstorm and were buried on the summit.<sup>1</sup>
  2. Another Story: Agnes that the troops moved up the creek now called East Fork of Soldier Creek, merely passed over the broad summit on their way east, but were not caught in a snowstorm.<sup>2</sup>
  3. Tom Brackenburg in July 1984 related this story to Dr. R. Raymond Green: Six soldiers went AWOL from Cedar Fort. They came up Spanish Fork Canyon and got caught in a snow storm in \_\_\_\_\_ 1861 and froze to death. Someone buried them in a swail south of the present Soldier Summit.<sup>3</sup>
- Keith*  
Note: the same day, Dr. Green found an older man who had purchased the motel east of Brackenburg's Service Station and the old fellow showed Dr. Green a grave stone back in his coal bin.<sup>3</sup>

4. Another Story: Tragedy, a railroad boom and now near oblivion are the brief steps of history in Soldier Summit, one of the few communities in Wasatch County that lies outside Provo Valley. The ghost town of today had its beginning about 1862 in the midst of tragedy. Soldiers from Johnston's Army that had been stationed at Camp Floyd were recalled to aid in the Civil War. Desiring to return to the East as quickly as possible many of the soldiers started up Spanish Fork Canyon along the pass between the Colorado Basin and the Great Basin. Caught in a blizzard common to the high mountain country, they died from exposure. The bodies were buried near the pass at a spot which became known as "Soldiers Summit" in their honor.<sup>4</sup>

References: (1.) "Ghost Towns of Utah," by Dr. Carr p.71

(2) Ibid

(3) Personal Interview with Tom Brackenburg on July, 1984.

(4) DUP Book: "How Beautiful Upon The Mountains," 1963 pp. 1117-1119.